

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 IO-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 L-02 SPC-01 DRC-01 PRS-01 AID-10 ACDA-10 /096 W

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O R 150945Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9041

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT NOV. 7-13 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS AT A LOW LEVEL THROUGHOUT MR 1 PROBABLY DUE MOSTLY TO HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING CAUSED BY A TYPHOON. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN MR 2 DECLINED FOR THE SECOND WEEK AS ALL PROVINCES WERE RELATIVELY QUIET. LAST WEEK'S FIGHTING IN QUANG DUC PROVINCE WAS COSTLY TO THE GVN AS REGIONAL FORCE UNITS (WHICH BORE THE BRUNT OF THE FIGHTING) LOST 698 KIA/MIA OUT OF A TOTAL OF 1677 INVOLVED. SUBSTANTIAL ARVN/RF FORCES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE PROVINCE TO RECAPTURE THE CAMPS OF BU PRANG AND DAK SONG AND A PORTION OF ROUTE 14 NOW HELD BY NVA FORCES EQUIVALENT TO A REINFORCED DIVISION. HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING WERE AT LEAST PARTIALLY THE CAUSE OF DECREASED ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF THE REIGON. THE LEVEL OF ENEMY MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME IN MR 3. SAPPERS HEAVILY DAMAGED A BRIDGE IN BINH TUY PROVINCE TEMPORARILY CLOSING ROUTE 1 AND ATTACKED THREE SHIPS ON THE NHA BE RIVER SOUTH OF SAIGON CAUSING MINOR DAMAGE TO A SHELL TANKER. IN RETALIATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 6 ROCKETING OF BIEN HOA, VNAF FLEW 81 SORTIES THE NEXT DAY AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS NEAR LOC NINH IN BINH LONG PROVINCE AND BO DUC IN NORTHERN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. SEVERAL COMMUNIST AREAS IN TAY NINH PROVINCE HAVE ALSO BEEN BOMBED. IN MR 4, ACTIVITY DROPPED OFF IN THE NORTHERN DELTA ALTHOUGH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED IN DINH TUONG, KIEN PHONG AND KIEN HOA PROVINCES. THE SOUTHERN DELTA CONTINUES TO BE RELATIVELY QUIET WITH THE EXCEPTION OF KIEN GIANG PROVINCE WHERE ACTIVITY INCREASED. A VIETNAMESE NAVY BASE AND A DISTRICT TOWN WERE MORTARED ON NOVEMBER 10 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE. THE ICCS HAS ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE BIEN HOA ROCKET ATTACK AND THE SUBSEQUENT BOMBING OF THE LOC NINH AREA. CITING THE LOC NINH AREA BOMBING, THE PRG DELEGATION BOYCOTTED ALL TPJMC MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD AND ALONG WITH THE DRV DELEGATION ONE OF THE TWO FPJMT SESSIONS. END SUMMARY.

PART I: ICCS

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1. THE 89TH SESSION OF THE ICCS ON NOVEMBER 9 ORDERED AN ICCS INVESTIGATION OF THE PRG ROCKETING OF BIEN HOA ON NOVEMBER 6 AND THE RVN SUBSEQUENT AERIAL BOMBING OF THE LOC NINH AREA ON NOVEMBER 7.

2. RVN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 14 ITS SUPPORT FOR ICCS'S FIRST BUDGET OF \$31.4 MILLION DOLLARS. THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS POINTS OUT THAT THE COMMUNISTS WISHED TO DEPRIVE "THE ICCS OF THE MEANS TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY" THROUGH A REQUEST FOR CUTS IN PERSONNEL AND BUDGET.

PART II: TPJMC

NO TPJMC MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD SINCE NOVEMBER 6 DUE TO A PRG DELEGATION ANNOUNCEMENT ON NOVEMBER 8 THAT IT WOULD NOT

ATTEND CHIEFS OF DELEGATIONS OR SUB-COMMISSION MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 9-16 TO PROTEST VNAF BOMBINGS IN THE LOC NINH AREA. THE TWICE WEEKLY SAIGON-LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT REMAINS SUSPENDED.

PART III: FPJMT

THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS BOYCOTTED THE NOVEMBER 8 SESSION OF THE FPJMT IN PROTEST OVER THE LOC NINH BOMBING. THIS WAS THE FIRST FPJMT SESSION WHICH THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS HAVE BOYCOTTED ALTHOUGH THE PRG DELEGATION, SUPPORTED BY THE DRV DELEGATION, WALKED OUT OF TWO SESSIONS IN OCTOBER. THE NOVEMBER 13 SESSION WAS HELD AS SCHEDULED, BUT THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS REMAIN UNWILLING TO DISCUSS FPJMT SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS.

PART IV: COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN, MEDIA RAP GVN AIRSTRIKES.

1. HANOI AND VIET CONG SPOKESMEN AND PROPAGANDA MEDIA CONTINUED TO FLAY THE GVN OVER ALLEGED BOMBING OF COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS IN TAY NINH AND BINH LONG PROVINCES. A DRV GOVERNMENT STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 10 CHARGED THAT THE GVN. "ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES", HAD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, KILLED MORE THAN 100 CIVILIANS WHEN IT BOMBED LOC NINH AND BO DUC LAST WEEK. THE DRV STATEMENT, LIKE THE "PRG" DECLARATION THE DAY BEFORE, THREATENED "APPROPRIATE PUNITIVE BLOWS" SHOULD THE GVN ATTACKS CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO A NOVEMBER 12 BROADCAST OVER HANOI RADIO, THE DRV STATEMENT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM, MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ICCS AND TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL. AIR ATTACKS ON LO GO, THIEN NGON AND XA MAT WERE CONDEMNED IN STATEMENTS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LEVEL.

2. HANOI'S PARTY ("NHAN DAN") AND ARMY ("QUAN DOI NHAN DAN") NEWSPAPERS EXCORIATED THE US AND GVN IN SIMILAR TERMS. "NHAN DAN", IN ITS NOVEMBER 10 EDITORIAL, RIDICULED GVN CLAIMS THAT ONLY MILITARY TARGETS HAD BEEN HIT DURING THE AIR-RAIDS AND EMPHASIZED THAT "THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION MUST BE HELD RESPONSIBLE" FOR THE BOMBINGS AND OTHER ALLEGED GVN VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. "QUAN DOI NHAN DAN", FOR ITS PART, SAID MENACINGLY: "THE STUBBORN, WARLIKE CLIQUE HAS NOT LEARNED ITS LESSON FROM THE COUNTERBLOWS IN CHU NGHE, THANH DUC, BACH MA, BU DONG AND BIEN HOA. LET IT BEWARE* IF IT CONTINUES TO COMMIT CRIMES IT CAN EXPECT MORE APPROPRIATE PUNITIVE BLOWS."

PART V: HANOI CONDEMNS US "OVERFLIGHT"

THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN DENOUNCED WHAT HE SAID WAS AN HOUR-LONG OVERFLIGHT OF DRV TERRITORY BY A US SR-71 RECONNAISSANCE PLANE ON NOVEMBER 8. THE SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT THE PLANE HAD OVERFLOWN "A NUMBER OF PROVINCES, INCLUDING HANOI AND HAIPHONG." IN A NOVEMBER 9 COMMENTARY, "QUAN DOI NHAN DAN" CLAIMED THAT SINCE THE JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THE US HAD VIOLATED DRV

AIRSPACE "MORE THAN 10 TIMES" AND IMPLIED THAT THE LATEST OVER-
FLIGHT WAS RELATED TO THE RECENT STEP-UP IN BOMBING BY THE GVN.

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

PART VI: MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 77 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK. THIS IS A DAILY AVERAGE OF 11, A DECLINE FROM THE HIGHER LEVELS TYPICAL IN RECENT WEEKS. WHILE THE ENEMY MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY REDUCED THE LEVEL OF HIS ACTIVITIES, THE DECLINE IS PROBABLY PRIMARILY ATTRIBUTABLE TO HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING WHICH HAVE LIMITED MILITARY ACTION THROUGHOUT MR-I THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS (SEE DANANG 1210). GVN CASUALTIES: 39 KIA, 162 WIAS. NVA/VC LOSSES: 123 KIA, 2 RETURNEES.

2 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

FIGHTING DECLINED TO A LOW LEVEL AND CONSISTED OF MINOR HARASSMENT OF FRIENDLY PATROLS AND SMALL OUTPOSTS.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM ENEMY ACTIVITY DECLINED FROM LAST WEEK'S HIGH-POINT TO A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL. THE GVN RETOOK TWO LOST OUTPOSTS, SUFFERING FEW CASUALTIES. IN ONE OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS 11 VC WERE REPORTED KILLED, AND 5 WEAPONS AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF B-40 AMMUNITION WERE CAPTURED. RF PATROLS IN NORTHERN DIEN BAN DISTRICT KILLED 12 ENEMY, CAPTURED ARMS AND AMMUNITION, AND DESTROYED AN ENGINEER WEAPONS MAINTENANCE SHOP.

4. QUANG TIN SAW LITTLE ACTION, BUT IN QUANG NGAI ON NOVEMBER 11, THE GVN RECAPTURED A STRONG-POINT LOST ON NOVEMBER 9, AND THE ENEMY BLEW UP A HOUSE, WOUNDING 9 CIVILIANS. MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS MUCH REDUCED DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE WEEK AS THE FLOOD WATERS ROSE.

5. ICCS:

A CONTINGENT OF ICCS DELEGATES FROM SAIGON, ACCOMPANIED BY THREE PRG REPRESENTATIVES AND JOINED BY ICCS REPRESENTATIVES
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FROM REGION I HEADQUARTERS AT HUE MET WITH PRG PERSONNEL NOVEMBER 13 AT DONG HA WHERE THEY SPENT THE NIGHT BEFORE RETURNING TO SAIGON. THE GROUP ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO VISIT DONG HA NOVEMBER 12, BUT POOR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FORCED CANCELLATION OF THIS PLAN, AND THE GROUP SPENT THE NIGHT OF THE 12 TH IN HUE.

6. IN REGION I THE IRANIANS HAVE NOW DEPLOYED 2 MEN EACH TO THE SUB-REGION SITES OF PHU BAI AND QUANG TRI. DURING THE TWO WEEKS THAT THE IRANIANS HAVE BEEN PRESENT IN REGION I THERE

HAVE BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE ICCS MEETINGS. THIS WEEK, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INDONESIANS, THE IRANIANS AND INDONESIANS INTEND TO CONSIDER THE GVN REQUEST NOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE LOSS OF THE BACH MA OUTPOST AND THE QUESTION OF DEPLOYING TO THE GIO LINH AND LAO BAO POINTS OF ENTRY.

7. IN REGION II THE IRANIANS HAVE DEPLOYED TO HOI AN AND TAM KY AND PLAN TO DEPLOY TO CHU LAI AS SOON AS WEATHER PERMITS. THE HOI AN ICCS TEAM HAS TEMPORARILY BEEN WITHDRAWN TO DANANG BECAUSE ITS COMPOUND IS FLOODED.

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O R 150945Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9043
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
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LIMDIS
PART VII MR 2

1. OVERALL SITUATION: THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DECLINED FROM 139 LAST WEEK TO 95 THIS WEEK. THEY WERE CONCENTRATED IN PLEIKU (33), BINH DINH (21), QUANG DUC (13) AND KONTUM (10). RVNAF REPORTED 40 KIA AND 77 WIA, DOWN FROM 74 AND 155. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE PUT AT 50 KIA VERSUS 200 LAST WEEK. RVNAF CAPTURED 3 CREW-SERVED AND 33 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, AND REPORTED 3 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST. THERE WERE 159 AIR STRIKES: 96 IN QUANG DUC, 59 IN PLEIKU, AND 4 IN BINH DINH.

2. QUANG DUC: THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET SINCE THE COMMUNIST SEIZURE OF BU PRANG (NOVEMBER 4) AND DAK SONG (NOVEMBER 6). ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CASUALTIES SUFFERED BY THE RF, WHICH BORE THE BRUNT OF THE FIGHTING AND THE LOSSES IN THESE ENCOUNTERS. OUT OF A TOTAL OF 1,677 ENGAGED, KIA/MIA COME TO 698, INCLUDING 43 OFFICERS AND 90 NCOS. 979 PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN RECOVERED.

NO FIGURES ARE YET AVAILABLE ON WIA OR LOSSES OR THE SMALL GROUP OF ARVN UNITS INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO THE ACTING MR II DEPUTY COMMANDER IN NHA TRANG COURT MARTIAL ACTION IS BEING TAKEN AGAINST THE COMMANDER OF THE 271ST RF BATTALION, WHICH ABANDONED DAK SONG WITHOUT A FIGHT, ALLOWING THE COMMUNISTS TO TAKE THE POSITION AND CUTTING OFF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, GIA NGHIA.

3. THE COMMUNISTS APPEAR INTENT ON HOLDING THEIR RECENT GAINS AND ARE REPORTEDLY DIGGING-IN ALONG THE PORTION OF QL 14 UNDER THEIR CONTROL. NVA FORCES IN THE AREA ARE EQUIVALENT TO A REINFORCED DIVISION, AND ARE EQUIPPED WITH ARMOR AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS. THE GVN SEEMS DETERMINED TO RETAKE THE LOST POSITIONS AND HAS DEPLOYED SUBSTANTIAL FORCES TO QUANG DUC, INCLUDING TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 53RD REGIMENT, ONE BATTALION OF THE 42ND REGIMENT, ONE (POSSIBLY TWO) RF BATTALIONS FROM DARLAC, TEN ARTILLERY PIECES AND ALL THREE TROOPS OF THE 19TH ARMORED SQUADRON. IN ADDITION, THE 21ST RANGER GROUP HAS BEEN DEPLOYED FROM PLEIKU TO BAN ME THUOT.

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4. THERE HAVE BEEN CONTINUING SMALL CONTACTS IN THE VICINITY OF DAK SONG DURING THE WEEK, AND ONE GVN ARMORED TROOP

IS REPORTEDLY ADVANCING TOWARD THAT LOCATION FROM DUC LAP. CLOUD COVER IS NOW HEAVY AT DAK SONG, BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT AN INCREASE IN THE FIGHTING WILL RESUME AS SOON AS THE WEATHER ALLOWS THE VNAF TO PROVIDE SUITABLE TACTICAL SUPPORT TO THE GROUND UNITS.

5. OTHER AREAS: THERE HAS BEEN SPORADIC CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE MR, BUT THE NORMALLY TROUBLED NORTHERN PORTION OF THE REGION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET, AT LEAST PARTLY BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING.

6. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE 22ND DIVISION TOLD THE PLEIKU PROV REP THAT THE DIVISIONS TASK FORCE CHARGED WITH RETAKING PLEI DJERENG (LE MINH), HAS BEEN ON THE DEFENSIVE SINCE THE RECENT QUANG DUC DISTURBANCES, AND IS HOLDING A LINE ON ROUTE 509 ABOUT 25 KMS WEST OF PLEIKU. ELEVEN A-37 AIRCRAFT HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN DEPLOYED FROM PHAN RANG TO PLEIKU; THEIR PILOTS CLAIM TO HAVE DESTROYED 2 NVA TANKS IN NORTHERN KONTUM ON NOVEMBER 10. BRIG GEN CAM, 23RD DIV CG, SAID ON NOVEMBER 13 THAT HE THOUGHT THE TANKS WERE FROM A CONCENTRATION OF 100 TANKS WHICH HE BELIEVES ARE PART OF AN NVA DIVISION RECENTLY MOVED INTO NORTHERN KONTUM.

7. OFFICIALS IN BINH DINH AND PHU YEN REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNIST INTENTIONS, BUT THERE WERE NO MAJOR CONTACTS IN EITHER PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK.

8. THE CO OF THE PHAN RANG AIR BASE HAS INSTITUTED A SPECIAL CODE FOR ALL VNAF HELICOPTERS APPROACHING THE BASE BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN THAT A CHOPPER STOLEN FROM DALAT ON NOVEMBER 6 MAY BE IN COMMUNIST HANDS AND BE USED TO INFLICT DAMAGE ON GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS.

9. ICCS: THE HEADS OF THE FOUR DELEGATIONS IN PHAN THIET REPORT THEY HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR AMBASSADORS TO RESUME WORK AND THEY WILL NOW CONSIDER VIOLATIONS DATING FROM NOVEMBER 1. THE DELEGATION HEADS HAVE RECEIVED A BRIEFING FROM THE LOCAL GVN DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC. FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING, THE POLISH DELEGATE ASKED IF THE GVN CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD GUARANTEE SECURITY, SHOULD THE ICCS BE REQUESTED TO VISIT QUANG DUC. HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE GVN COULD NOT GUARANTEE SECURITY IN CONTESTED AREAS AND THAT THE ICCS SHOULD REQUEST THE PRG TO UNDERTAKE A JOINT GUARANTEE. SINCE THE PRG HAS YET TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A GUARANTEE IN ANY AREA, IT APPEARS THAT THE POLES ARE LAYING THE GROUNDWORK TO RESUME USING THEIR OLD TACTIC OF REFUSING ON-SITE INSPECTIONS IN CONTESTED AREAS.

10. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THE ARRIVAL OF THE IRANIANS IN NHA TRANG, CAM RANG AND BAN ME THUOT. THE IRANIAN DELEGATES

IN ICCS REGIONS III AND IV TEAMS HAVE NOW DEPLOYED TO ALL
SUB-REGIONAL SITES, EXCEPT DUC CO AND BEN HET. THE IRANIANS
ARE ALONE IN CAM RANG BUT EXPECT TO BE JOINED BY THE OTHER
DELEGATIONS SOON. THERE IS NO INDICATION WHEN OR IF THE
POLES AND HUNGARIANS WILL RETURN TO BAN ME THUOT.

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PSHRT VIII: MR 3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT VIRTUALLY THE SAME LEVEL AS IN PAST TWO WEEKS WITH 122 INCIDENTS REPORTED. THERE WERE 49 GROUND ATTACKS (46), 25 ABF'S (32), 26 MININGS (22), 22 MISCELLANEOUS (21). THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INCIDENTS IS INCREASING, HOWEVER, AS THE NVA/VC ARE UPGRADING THEIR TARGETS TO INCLUDE BRIDGES AND SHIPPING PLUS CONTINUING THREATS TO IMPORTANT GVN INSTALLATIONS AND POSITIONS. FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE WEEK BINH DUONG (P) RECORDED HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS (23), FOLLOWED BY HAU NGHIA (17) BIEN HOA (15) AND LONG AN (13). THOUGH INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN ALL 11 PROVINCES, FIGHTING WAS AT A PARTICULARLY LOW LEVEL IN TAY NINH, GIA DINH AND BINH TUY. GVN CASUALTIES FOR THE WEEK WERE SHARPLY DOWN FROM 126 TO 89: 22 KIA (4 CIVILIANS), 67 WIA (6 CIVILIANS); GRENADE AND MINE DETONATIONS ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL. REPORTS OF INCREASED PRODUCTION OF MINES BY NVA/VC UNITS, UTILIZING DUD OR UNEXPENDED FRIENDLY ARTILLERY ROUNDS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY SEVERAL RECENT INCIDENTS IN WHICH 105 MM SHELLS WERE EXPLODED AGAINST GVN TROOPS. ENEMY CASUALTIES DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM 66 TO 45: 42 KIA, 3 CIA. THERE WERE 10 RALLIERS, 7 ARVN ESCAPEES AND 10 VCI ARRESTED.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER ROCKET ATTACKS ON BIEN HOA AIRBASE FOLLOWING SHELLING OF NOVEMBER 6 DESPITE INTEL TO EFFECT ENEMY HAD MOVED ROCKETS WITHIN RANGE ON NOV 9. THIRD AIR DIVISION HAS TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY ACTIONS, INCLUDING EVACUATION OF CERTAIN AIRCRAFT, AND PERSONNEL ARE ON ALERT FOR FUTURE ATTACKS. IN "RETALIATION" FOR ROCKETING OF AIRBASE, VNAF BOMBED MILIARY TARGETS AT LOC NCH AND BO DUC ON NOV 7 (ABOUT 81 SORTIES OF F5'S, A 37'S AND A 1'S) WHICH RESULTED IN PROTESTS FROM COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN. GVN OFFICIALS CLAIM PRG ACCUSATION THAT BOMBING AT LOC NINH KILLED CIVILIANS IN MARKET PLACE WAS FALSE BECAUSE TARGET HIT WAS AIRFIELD THREE KILOMETERS FROM TOWN. THOUGH SAIGON OFFICIALS INITIALLY ISSUED STATEMENTS TO EFFECT ROCKETING SIGNALLED START OF GNERRAL OFFENSIVE, MR 3 STAFF TOOK OPPOSITE VIEW. HOWEVER, MR 3 HAS DEVISED STRATEGY TO KEEP ENEMY UNITS PINNED DOWN, BUYING TIME TO REORGANUZE AND TRAIN ARVN 5TH AND CONFIDENTIAL

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25TH DIVISIONS. MR 3 CG THUAN IS APPLYING WHAT HTU CALLS "ALTER-NATING HARASSMENT" TECHNIQUES WITH VNAF BOMBING PRINCIPAL COMMUNIIST ENCLAVES SUCH AS THE TPO GO CANAL, KATUM, THIEN NGON, XA MAT AND BOI LOI WOODS, ALL IN TAY NINH (P), HO BO WOODS IN BINH DUONG (P) AND LOC NINH IN BINH LONG (P). UNDER PLAN, A DIFFERENT TARGET IS TO BE HIT EACH DAY FOR PERIOD OF ABOUT 30 DAYS. CONGEN LEARNED THAT XA MAT WAS BOMBED NOV. 9, LO GO CANAL AREA ON NOV. 10, AND

THIEN NGON (PRESUMABLY THE AIRSTRIP) ON NOV. 11. MR 3 COMMAND IS KEEPING TIGHT LID ON INFORMATION AND WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE CONFIRM SPECIFIC STRIKES SINCE NOV. 11. HOWEVER, ACCELERATED MOVEMENT OF AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF AND LANDING AT BIEN HOA AIRBASE HAS BEEN DAILY OCCURRENCE SINCE NOV. 9. TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD ARRO "MANY" SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING COURSE OF WEEK AT LO GO, KATUM AND THIEN NGON, BUT HE NOT IN POSSESSION OF DETAILS ON TARGETS HIT OR RESULTS OF BOMBING. NEVERTHELESS, UNCONFIRMED AGENT REPORTS HAVE NOTED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO COMMUNIST HOLDINGS IN SOME OF THESE AREAS. CONGEN ANTICIPATES STRONG PRG HYOTESTS ON GREATLY INCREASED USE OF VNAF TO BOMB UOTRI "LIBERATED ZONES".

3. PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ENEMY PRESSURE ON PHUOC BINT AIRFIELD, PHUOC LONG (P) HAS NOW BEEN ESCALATED TO INCLUDE NEIGHBORING SONG BE CITY. ROCKETS OF 107MM WERE USED AGAINST THIS SMALL COMMUNITY AT LEAST FOUR TIMES PAST WEEK, USUALLY AS CH-47 HELICOPTERS ATTEMPTED TO DELIVER MUCH NEEDED SUPPLIES. ALL LAND ROUTES TO THIS AREA ARE INTERDICTED BY COMMUNIST FORCES. THE RECENT NVA/VC CAPTURE OF DAK SONG IN QUANG DUC (P), MR 2 CLOSED THE LAST REMAINING ROUTE (QL 14) AND CAUSED A LARGE RESUPPLY CONVOY, DESTINED FOR SONG BE, TO TURN BACK. DONG XOAI DISTRICT TOWN, PHUOC LONG (P), REMAINS THREATENED BY COMMUNIST FORCES, BUT 2 RF REINFORCEMENT COMPANIES WERE RETURNED TO DUC PHONG, LEAVING AREA UNDER PROTECTION OF 73RD RANGERS.

4. RECENT INTEL INDICATING PLANNED SAPPER ACTIVITY AGAINST GVN SHIPPING WAS BORNE OUT BY FOUR INCIDENTS PAST WEEK. TWO WERE B-40 ROCKET ATTACKS ON TWO U.S. FREIGHTERS AS THEY TRAVELLED BETWEEN SAIGON AND THE SEA ON THE NHA BE RIVER. LITTLE OR NO DAMAGE WAS CAUSED. A THIRD WAS AGAINST UJSHELL OIL TANKER IN THE SAME AREA BUT UTILIZING A HIGH EXPLOSIVE CHARGE WHICH OPENED TWO SMALL HOLES BELOW THE WATER LINE. THE FOURTH WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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AGAINST A FISHING BOAT DOCKED AT ALASKA BARGE CO. IN VUNG TAU. A FLOATING MINE DETONATED AGAINST THE HULL WITH MINOR DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES.

5. A VNAF AC 119 AIRCRAFT DREW FIRE FROM SA-7 GROUND TO AIR ROCKET IN DINH QUAN (D), LONG KHANH (P), BUT THE PLANE WAS NOT HIT. OTHER SA-7'S WERE FIRED AT VNAF FIGHTER-BOMBERS, BOTH JET AND PISTON-DRIVEN, DURING AIRSTRIKES IN NORTHERN TAY NINH (P) WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

6. A MAJOR HIGHWAY HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO THE 80 PERCENT DESTRUCTION BY NVA/VC FORCES, OF A BRIDGE ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY #1 IN BINH TUY (P). A RAILROAD CULVERT WAS BLOWN AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME BETWEEN LONG KHANH (P) AND BINH TUY (P). THE NVA/VC THEN CONDUCTED A SMALL AMBUSH AGAINST THE ENGINEERS WHO WERE TRYING TO REPAIR TRACK DAMAGE. CIVILIAN

TRUCKS HAVE BEEN THE TARGET OF CONFISCATIONS, OBVIOUSLY TAKEN TO ASSIST IN THE MOVEMENT OF COMMUNIST SUPPLIES. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THE ENEMY IS RAPIDLY INCREASING THE USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO MOVE THESE SUPPLIES. THIS INCREASES COMMUNIST CHANCES OF BEING DETECTED BY GNVN CHECKPOINTS OR AIRCRAFT BUT IS AN EFFICIENT WAY TO PLACE LOGISTICS DEPOTS CLOSER TO POPULATED AREAS.

7. NVA/VC SEEM TO BE REVERTING TO PRE-CEASEFIRE TACTICS WITH AN INCREASE IN ATTACKS ON VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS AND STRUCTURES. THIS PERIOD RECORDED TWO ASSASSINATIONS AND TWO ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DAMAGED. TAX COLLECTION AND PROPAGANDA SESSIONS WERE ALSO REPORTED.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 L-02 SPC-01 DRC-01 PRS-01 AID-10 ACDA-10 /096 W

----- 002352

O R 150945Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9045

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACHTAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 5 SAIGON 19509/5
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LIMDIS
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: MILITARY
ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA CONTINUED TO DROP, WITH A TOTAL OF 201
VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED BY MR IV (251 LAST WEEK)
INCLUDING 30 GROUND ATTACKS (50 LAST WEEK), 103 ATTACKS BY FIRE
(138 LAST WEEK), 47 HARASSMENTS (UP FROM 41 LAST WEEK), 1
INFILTRATION (NONE LAST WEEK), 4 ACTS OF SABOTAGE (3 LAST WEEK),
13 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (15 LAST WEEK) AND 2 POLITICAL ACTS (3
LAST WEEK). GVN CASUALTIES INCLUDED 126 KILLED (139 LAST WEEK),
580 WOUNDED (659 LAST WEEK), AND 34 MISSING IN ACTION (35 LAST
WEEK). THE GVN LOST NO CREW-SERVED WEAPONS (5 LAST WEEK) AND
INDIVIDUAL- WEAPONS LOST DROPPED TO 71 (169 LAST WEEK). REPORTED
VC/NVA LOSSES INCLUDED 456 KILLED (497 LAST WEEK), 42 PRISONERS
AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (SAME AS LAST WEEK), 13 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS
(7 LAST WEEK), AND 131 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (151 LAST WEEK) SEIZED.
ACTIVITY DROPPED OFF IN THE NORTHERN DELTA AND CONTINUED LIGHT IN
THE SOUTHERN DELTA.

(B) CONTINUED ACTIVITY IN CENTRAL DINH TUONG: DINH TUONG IS
STILL THE MILITARILY MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN THE DELTA, WITH 70
VC/NVA VIOLATIONS REPORTED BY MR IV DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.
(OUR CONSUL IN MY THO USING SECTOR FIGURES REPORTED 107 INCIDENTS
OF ALL TYPES --(DOWN FROM 136 LAST WEEK) -- OF WHICH 42 WERE
ASSOCIATED WITH GN-INITIATED OPERATIONS.) VC/NVA-INITIATED
GROUND ATTACKS DROPPED OFF CONSIDERABLY -- TO JUST 9 (33 LAST WEEK)--
AND ATTACKS BY FIRE DROPPED TO 24 (32 LAST WEEK). THE LATE
OCTOBER HIGH POINT, THEREFORE, HAS PASSED, ALTHOUGH THE SECTOR
S-2 CLAIMS TO HAVE RECEIVED INDICATIONS OF ANOTHER COMING HIGH
POINT IN THE SECOND HALF OF NOVEMBER. THE WEEK'S HEAVIEST CLASH
OCCURRED NEAR BINH PHONG OUTPOST, 2 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF ROUTE 4 IN
CAI LAY (D), JUST BEFORE DAWN ON NOVEMBER 11. GVN REGIONAL
FORCES, WITH HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SUPPORT, KILLED 28 VC/NVA PRE-
SUMABLY OF THE 261 C BATTALION OF THE DONG THAP 1 REGIMENT, WHICH
NORMALLY OPERATES IN THE AREA). THE GVN LOST 4 KILLED AND 14
WOUNDED. THE CONTINUED PROXIMITY OF VC/NVA ACTIVITY TO ROUTE

4 IN CAI LAY AND SAM GIANG DISTRICTS SUGGESTS A POSSIBLE EFFORT
TO INTERDICT THE ROUTE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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(C) MANOEUVRES FOR RICE IN KIEN PHONG: OUR PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS 78 INCIDENTS IN KIEN PHONG (SAME AS LAST WEEK), WITH THE FOCUS OF ACTION SHIFTING FROM MY AN DISTRICT (NEAR TRIP PHAP) TO THE DISTRICTS OF THANH BINH, CAO LANH AND KIEN VAN ALONG THE MEKONG. THE VC/NVA PRESSURED SEVERAL OUTPOSTS IN KIEN VAN NEAR ROUTE 30. TWO WERE OVERRUN. 16 PF WERE KILLED NOVEMBER 11 AT ONE, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN RETAKEN AS OF NOVEMBER 14. SECTOR OFFICIALS BELIEVE AN EFFORT TO CONTROL RICE (THE DEEP-WATER PADDY WILL BE READY FOR HARVEST IN DECEMBER) IS THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVE OF VC STRATEGY IN THE PROVINCE. UNIDENTIFIED NVA UNITS TOTALLING 1500 TROOPS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE DEPLOYED IN CAMBODIA ALONG THE BORDER OPPOSITE

THE PROVINCE, (SEE ALSO CAN THO 0821), REPLACING THE E-207 REGIMENT WHICH HAS MOVED TO DINH TUONG, BUT THEY HAVE SO FAR CAUSED LITTLE TROUBLE IN VIETNAM. (COL. NINH 44TH STZ CO TOLD CONGEN NOVEMBER 13 HE BELIEVES NUMBER IS LESS.) ACCORDING TO AN PHU DISTRICT CHIEF, ANOTHER NEW NVA GROUP OF POSSIBLY TWO BNS TOTALLING 300 PERSONNEL IS BEING ESTABLISHED JUST NORTH OF THE BORDER (VIC WT 0814). THE D-3 BATTALION OF THE Z-15 REGIMENT HAS RETURNED FROM TRI PHAP TO MY AN DISTRICT, BUT IS LIKEWISE FAIRLY QUIET. KIEN PHONG, LIKE DINH TUONG, MAY WITNESS INCREASED VC/NVA ACTIVITY IN LATE NOVEMBER.

(D) GVN KEEPS THE INITIATIVE IN KIEN HOA: MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL IN KIEN HOA, WITH GVN FORCES HOLDING THE INITIATIVE: OVER HALF THE INCIDENTS REPORTED WERE ASSOCIATED WITH GVN OPERATIONS. THE VC, HOWEVER, HIT ONE RF OUTPOST HARD, KILLING 11 RF AND DAMAGING THE STRUCTURE ABOUT 30 PERCENT OVERALL, THE VC/NVA APPEAR TO PRESENT NO SERIOUS MILITARY THREAT IN THE PROVINCE, ALTHOUGH THEY CONTINUE ACTS OF TERRORISM.

(E) QUIET SOUTH OF THE MEKONG: MILITARY ACTIVITY SOUTH OF THE MEKONG CONTINUES AT THE LOW LEVEL OF RECENT WEEKS EXCEPT IN KIEN GIANG ZVE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN CHUONG THIEN WAS A GVN-LAID AMBUSH WHICH NETTED 12 VC KILLED. ONE OUTPOST ON THE CHUONG THIEN BAXUYEN BORDER, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN SHELLED ALMOST DAILY FOR TWO WEEKS. BA XUYEN REPORTS 23 INCIDENTS, OF WHICH 12 RESULTED FROM GVN OPERATIONS. THERE WERE TWO SNIPING INCIDENTS ON ROUTE 4 IN THE PROVINCE, WOUNDING A TOTAL OF 6 CIVILIANS. BOTH BAC LIEU AND AN XUYEN REPORT THAT THE LOCAL VC HAVE REACTED TO THE GVN ECONOMIC CONFIDENTIAL

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BLOCKADE, WHICH IS APPARENTLY HAVING SOME EFFECT. MR IV REPORTS THAT THE VC D-2 REGIMENT HAS MOVED FROM KIEN GIANG INTO THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THOI BINH DISTRICT OF AN XUYEN, NEAR THE TRI-BORDER AREA JUST SOUTH OF THE U MINH FOREST. VINH BINH AND VINH LONG WERE QUIET, WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF A GVN OPERATION ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO PROVINCES WHICH NETTED 15 VC/NVA KILLED AND 4 CAPTURED. BOTH PROVINCES, HOWEVER, ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT A POSSIBLE VC/NVA OFFENSIVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE VINH LONG

PROVINCE CHIEF FEARS VINH LONG CITY MAY BE SHELLED. THE VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF HAS REDUCED HIS OUTPOSTS AND BUILT UP HIS MOBILE FORCES FOR A BETTER DEFENSIVE POSTURE.

(F) INCREASED VC/NVA ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG: IN CONTRAST TO THE REST OF THE DELTA SOUTH OF THE MEKONG, ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG HAS INCREASED. THERE WERE 34 INCIDENTS THIS WEEK (JUST 7 LAST WEEK), OF WHICH ONLY 9 WERE RELATED TO GVN OPERATIONS. IN KIEN AN DISTRICT, ONE OUTPOST WAS OVERRUN, ONE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, AND TWO GVN INSTALLATIONS MORTARED. IN HIEU LE DISTRICT, 14 PSDF DESERTED AFTER THEIR HAMLET CHIEF WAS ASSASSINATED. IN KIEN TAN DISTRICT, 5 PF WERE KILLED IN AN AMBUSH. THE XEO RO NAVY BASE SOUTH OF RACH GIA RECEIVED 100 ROUNDS OF 82 MM AND B-41 ON NOVEMBER 10 AND, ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE KIEN AN DISTRICT TOWN RECEIVED 36 ROUNDS. NEITHER TARGET HAD BEEN HIT SINCE CEASEFIRE I. THREE BATTALIONS OF THE 32ND REGIMENT OF THE ARVN 21ST DIVISION ARE NOW IN HIEU LE DISTRICT, OFFSETTING SOME 5 NVA BATTALIONS THAT HAVE ENTERED THE AREA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER.

2. ICCS REDEPLOYMENTS: THE IRANIANS HAVE NOW TAKEN UP THEIR POSTS AT ALL REGION VII TEAM SITES EXCEPT TRI TON. BOTH THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE BEING REPLACED BY A SECOND TRANCHE. THE HUNGARIANS IN REGION VII MAY NUMBER AS MANY AS 20 IN THE NEAR FUTURE. REGION VII HUNGARIANS AND POLES CLAIM THEY CONTINUE TO INTERCEDE THROUGH THEIR NATIONAL CHANNELS ON BEHALF OF HOMER ELM (PA#E EMPLOYEE KIDNAPPED IN BA XUYEN ON OCTOBER 6).
LAPPLING

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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